

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-49 CANCEL

50. (New) Method of configuring a radio uplink comprising:
receiving information having both a cell specific parameter and a radio link specific parameter, in respective messages on an interface between a network element and a radio network controller for configuring the radio uplink from a user equipment to the network element,
configuring the radio uplink at the network element, and
receiving a payload packet from the user equipment to the network element over the radio uplink after the uplink is configured at the network element,
wherein at least one of said respective messages enables said configuring the radio uplink.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising:
acknowledging correct reception of the payload packet at the network element on a radio downlink from the network element to the user equipment, and
sending the payload packet from the network element to the radio network controller following said correct reception from the user equipment.

52. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said receiving by said network element includes receiving at least one parameter indicative of boundaries within which choices may be made by said network element.

53. (New) Method of configuring a radio uplink comprising:
sending information having both a cell specific parameter and a radio link specific parameter, in respective messages on an interface to a network element from a radio network controller for configuring the radio uplink from a user equipment to the network element, and
receiving a payload packet from a network element after the payload packet has been sent from the user equipment to the network element over the radio uplink that has been configured,

wherein at least one of said respective messages enables said configuring the radio uplink.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said sending by said radio network controller includes sending at least one parameter to said network element indicative of boundaries within which choices may be made by said network element.

55. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising sending the information on an interface between the radio network controller and another radio network controller for relay to another network element for configuring an uplink between the other network element and the user equipment.

56. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein prior to said sending said information element on said interface between said network element and said radio network controller, said radio network controller decides a value for said cell specific parameter or said radio link specific parameter, or both, for said sending said information element with said cell specific parameter and said radio link specific parameter in said one or more messages on said interface from said radio network controller to said network element.

57. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said radio network controller is responsive to signaling from said network element with a proposed value or values for said cell specific parameter, said radio link specific parameter, or both, and said radio network controller carries out said sending said information element either confirming or changing said proposed value or values.

58. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said configuring the uplink between the other network element and the user equipment comprises configuring the uplink between the other network element and the user equipment followed by sending the payload packet from the user equipment to the other network element over the radio uplink between the user equipment and the other network element for sending the payload packet to the radio network controller.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising:
acknowledging correct reception of the payload packet at the network element on a radio downlink from the network element to the user equipment, and
acknowledging correct reception of the payload packet at the other network element on a radio downlink from the other network element to the user equipment.

60. (New) A system, comprising:
a network element and a radio network controller connected by a signalling interface and arranged to configure a radio uplink from a user equipment to the network element, the interface being arranged to convey messages having information elements that contain parameters wherein information having both a cell specific parameter and a radio link specific parameter is in respective messages on the interface between the network element and the radio network controller,
wherein the user equipment is arranged to send a payload packet to the network element over the radio uplink after the uplink is configured at the user equipment for sending the payload packet to the radio network controller, and
wherein at least one of said respective messages is arranged to enable said configuring the radio uplink.

61. (New) A data structure configured to be at least temporarily stored in a computer readable medium, the data structure comprising:
information having both a cell specific parameter and a radio link specific parameter to be transferred in respective messages on an interface between a network element and a radio network controller in order to configure a radio uplink from a user equipment to the network element,
wherein said configuring is carried out in order to enable transmission of a payload packet from the user equipment to the network element over the radio uplink and from the network element to the radio network controller, and

wherein at least one of said respective messages enables said configuring the radio uplink.

62. (New) Apparatus comprising:

a first interface configured to communicate information having both a cell specific parameter and a radio link specific parameter in respective messages to a network element from the apparatus in order to configure a radio uplink from user equipment to the network element; and

a second interface configured to communicate the information between the apparatus which is a radio network controller and a second radio network controller connected to a second network element,

wherein at least one of said respective messages is arranged to enable said configuring the radio uplink.

63. (New) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the information is arranged to configure a second radio uplink between the second network element and the user equipment, the first radio network controller being configured to receive a payload packet from the network element over the first interface, the second radio network controller being configured to receive the payload packet from the second network element after receipt by the second network element from the user equipment over the second radio uplink, and the second radio network controller being configured to send the payload packet received from the second network element to the radio network controller following the reception by the second network element from the user equipment for transfer from the second radio network controller to the first radio network controller.

64. (New) Apparatus comprising:

a first interface arranged to communicate information having both a cell specific parameter and a radio link specific parameter in respective messages between the apparatus, which is a network element, and a radio network controller in order to configure an uplink channel on a radio link; and

a second interface arranged to communicate signals related to said configuring the uplink channel between the network element and the user equipment, and arranged to receive a payload packet from the user equipment to the network element over the radio uplink after said configuring the uplink channel on the radio link is carried out by the network element,

wherein the first interface is also arranged to convey the payload packet from the network element to the radio network controller following the reception by the network element from the user equipment, and

wherein at least one of said respective messages is arranged to enable said configuring the uplink.

65. (New) Apparatus comprising:

transceiver configured to receive and transmit signals over an interface between the apparatus, which is a user equipment, and a network element; and

a control arranged to process signalling between the network element and the user equipment in order to configure a radio uplink from user equipment to a network element,

wherein the user equipment is configured to send a payload packet from the user equipment to the network element over the radio uplink after the uplink is configured.

66. (New) A data structure for at least temporary storage in a computer readable medium, the data structure comprising:

information having both a cell specific parameter and a radio link specific parameter for transfer in respective messages on an interface between a network element and a user equipment in order to configure a radio uplink from the user equipment to the network element,

wherein said configuring is carried out at the network element, for enabling transmission of a payload packet from the user equipment to the network element over the radio uplink and from the network element to the radio network controller

wherein at least one of said respective messages is arranged to enable said configuring the radio uplink.

67. (New) Apparatus comprising:

a first means for communicating information having both a cell specific parameter and a radio link specific parameter in respective messages between the apparatus, which is a network element, and a radio network controller for configuring an uplink channel on a radio link; and

a second means for communicating signals related to said configuring the uplink channel between the network element and the user equipment, and arranged to receive a payload packet from the user equipment to the network element over the radio uplink after said configuring the uplink channel on the radio link is carried out by the network element,

wherein the first means is also for conveying the payload packet from the network element to the radio network controller following the reception by the network element from the user equipment, and

wherein at least one of said respective messages is arranged to enable said configuring the uplink.

68. (New) The apparatus of claim 67,

wherein the network element is arranged to acknowledge reception of the payload packet, on a radio downlink from the network element to the user equipment.